

Serving the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized), the Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield communities

PLDC students learn virtual leadership

Pfc. Emily J. Danial

Staff Writer

"We learn through experience and experiencing, and no one teaches anyone anything ... if the environment permits it, anyone can learn whatever he chooses to learn ..."

—Viola Spolin (b. 1911), theatrical director, producer

The idea behind these words was being put into practice Feb. 11 at Fort Stewart's Primary Leadership Development Course when Soldiers were given the chance to try their hands at Virtual Leader, an interactive

tutorial computer program. Virtual Leader, made by SimuLearn and originally designed for use in civilian corporate training programs, is a type of virtual reality software designed to teach users the ins and outs of leadership through hands-on experience. "We use a computer game team to design Virtual Leader, to rethink the way leadership happens and teach it in a much more effective way," said Clark Aldrich, lead project designer. Students using the program are put into a number of standard situations that they would have to face as leaders and given different

options in dealing with those situations, after which they are assessed on their performance. "It is an environment that takes different kinds of leadership skills, that tracks things like how much people like you or don't like you, how much they respect you ... how effective you have been so far in getting done what you say you're going to do. It cares about all those things," Aldrich said. He added, "It's a very interactive environment, and how you apply leadership depends on you."



Pfc. Emily J. Danial

PLDC Soldiers familiarize themselves with the Virtual Leader program, an interactive simulated leadership development aid.

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Pfc. Benjamin T. Brody

Sgt. Nicholas Driggers, 2/7 Inf., explains some of the Bradley's components to Laura Friedel, military legislative assistant to Georgia Democratic Senator Zell Miller, who attended the battalion gunnery training Feb. 11 at Red Cloud Gold where 2/7 Inf. conducted Table 8.

Cottonbalers train to fight at Table 8

Pfc. Benjamin T. Brody

Staff Writer

Bradley crews from A Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment engaged targets during a live fire exercise at Red Cloud Golf Feb. 11 as part of the qualifications they must complete before departing for the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif. in May. The exercise is known as Table 8, which is a culmination of the company's

training on the Bradley Fighting Vehicle, according to A Co. 1st Sgt. Benjamin Moore. "In the previous tables, the exercises were more basic, and now we do everything at once," Moore said. "They have a few seconds to kill the enemy target before we consider them killed. They shoot at multiple moving targets while they are moving too. Table 8 is a gateway to newer, even more advanced training based on what we learned in Operation

Iraqi Freedom." The gunnery represented the first time some of the crews had worked together, and many were relatively inexperienced with the Bradley, according to Moore. "We're trying to promote more crew stability, because when crews know each other, they fight more effectively," Moore said. "These guys are doing really well out here today. It's always a relief for the Soldiers when they qualify. We'll definitely have some (Army Achievement

Medals) to present for the 10 Ts (meaning the crew hit all its targets)." "On Table 5 I was pretty nervous, because I was really new to the Brad," said Spc. Matthew O'Dell. "Our communication keeps improving and we shot really well today, with total confidence." From the control tower, an evaluator from 2/7's sister unit, 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, kept track of the

See COTTONBALERS, Page 7A

31D Soldier dies in Ga. 144 accident

Press Release

3rd Inf. Div. Public Affairs Office

FORT STEWART, Ga. — A 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) Soldier died in a traffic accident Tuesday morning on Ga. Hwy. 144 East. Spc. William J. Savannah III, died when his privately owned vehicle collided with a semi-trailer truck at about 5 a.m. Savannah, 22, from Laurel, Md., was assigned to B Battery, 1st Battalion, 41st Field Artillery Regiment. He had been in the Army for approximately two years. He arrived at Fort Stewart in September, 2002.

Armor units blast targets downrange

Spc. Robert Adams

Staff Writer

Soldiers with 1st Battalion 64th Armor Regiment and 4th Battalion 64th Armor Regiment performed qualification training on Tank Table 8 gunnery at Red Cloud Alpha Feb. 10. "Make-up crews that need to qualify to shoot during the live fire at the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, Calif. are firing today," said Capt. William Brown, 1/64 Armor assistant operations officer. "Table 8 is basically the super bowl of tankers," Brown said. "Soldiers get the chance to qualify their tanks and gain bragging rights by showing they are able to move tanks downrange and engage targets successfully and efficiently."

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Spc. Robert Adams

A 1/64 Armor tank destroys a target at Red Cloud Alpha Feb. 10 during Tank Table 8 training.

Weather Forecast

FRI

High 71° Low 50°

SAT

High 71° Low 44°

SUN

High 66° Low 45°

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Photos by Sgt. Craig Zentkovich

A member of the Chatham County Sheriff's Department special tactics team secures a sector of woodline during a joint exercise held at Hunter Army Airfield Feb. 6. The Hunter Fire Department, Marine Security Force, Pentagon Police Department and Rescue Training Inc. had representatives participate in the training.

Hunter Fire Department trains with local, federal authorities

Sgt. Craig Zentkovich

NCOIC, Hunter Public Affairs Office

Two weeks of joint training between the Hunter Fire Department and various local authorities culminated with a field training exercise at Hunter Army Airfield Feb. 6.

The exercise, conducted at the recently built Ranger shoot house, included the raid of a suspected drug lab, medical evacuations and emergency care, suspect apprehension, and chemical decontamination.

Hunter Fire Department's focus during the exercise was individual, rapid decontamination. It included a hose down, detergent scrub and rinse.

"(For the exercise) we were called in at the last minute to respond to an explosion," said Jim Degnan, HFD assistant chief. "We were asked to provide emergency decontamination to patients prior to their trans-

port to a medical facility."

The HFD portion came at the tail end of the exercise. The Chatham County Sheriff's Department special tactics team, with participation from representatives of the Marine Security Force and Pentagon Police Department, kicked off the training. Their mission was to execute a simultaneous two-floor raid on the suspected crystal meth lab of a known drug dealer.

During the raid there was an explosion at the lab, which resulted in multiple casualties and allowed the suspects to flee. A search and rescue mission was conducted in the building, with the casualties being evacuated and assessed outside.

"This was a chance for the students to get out of the classroom," said David Hall, Rescue Training Inc., president. The students he spoke of, numbering 12, are part

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Candidate Robert Gordon, a trainee with the Hunter Army Airfield Fire Department, decontaminates Capt. Martin Scarbrough, HFD, during hazardous materials training Feb. 10.



A student of Rescue Training Inc. tactical medic class provides first aid to a casualty who received facial wounds from an explosion. Overall, 12 students from the class took part in the training.



Members of the HFD perform a simulated rapid decontamination of a casualty exposed to caustic substances resulting from the explosion of a crystal meth lab. The HFD participated in a joint exercise with federal and local authorities Feb. 6 at Hunter.



Gordon performs a search and rescue mission during hazardous materials training Feb. 10. Gordon, a former Ranger with 1/75 Ranger Regt., has been training to become a firefighter at Hunter since December.

A show of love, support



Sgt. Craig Zentkovich

(Above) Soldiers of 2/3 Avn., stand behind a banner donated by Karen Meyer — an Army mother and cancer survivor from Sumner, Wash. Meyer, who has donated more than 100 banners to units in Iraq, Afghanistan and stateside, has spent her own money to produce and ship them.

Courtesy photo

(Right) 2/3 Avn. Soldiers pose before the first of two banners donated to them by Meyer May 2 at Baghdad International Airport. The banner was signed by more than 50 people in the Sumner, Wash., area showing support for the troops in Iraq.



U.S. flag insignia to be worn by all

Sgt. 1st Class Marcia Triggs

Army News Service

WASHINGTON — All Soldiers can now wear the U.S. flag insignia on the right shoulder of their utility uniform, as a continued reminder that the Army is engaged in a war at home and abroad.

“The flag has been around for years to identify deploying troops. Now based on the Army’s joint expeditionary mindset, the flag represents our commitment to fight the war on terror for the foreseeable future,” said Sgt. Maj. Walter Morales, the uniform policy chief for G1.

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Schoomaker approved the uniform item Feb. 11, and all Soldiers have until Oct. 1, 2005 to get the insignia sewn on their uniforms.

A message on the uniform policy went out to the force Saturday, announcing “the current policy of deployed Soldiers wearing the U.S. flag on utility uniforms is expanded to include all Soldiers throughout the force regardless of deployment status.”

Currently there are not enough flags in the inventory, which is why Soldiers have a substantial amount of time to get the flags sewn on, Morales said. Deploying troops have the priority. Everyone else will have to wait until the Defense Logistics Agency has more in stock, he said. An estimated 30 million flags need to be procured, he added.

Enlisted Soldiers will not have to purchase the flags. They will be issued five flags from their assigned unit, and commanders will make arrangements for getting the insignia sewn on, Morales said. However, if Soldiers purchase the flags on their own, they will not be reimbursed, he added.

When purchasing the flag, the only ones authorized for wear on the uniform is the reverse field flag in red, white and blue. Subdued flags and those in other colors are in violation of U.S. code, Morales said. Individuals should comply with Army Regulation 670-1, Wear and Appearance of the Army Uniform and Insignia.

The regulation still states that Soldiers are not authorized to wear the full-color cloth U.S. flag replica upon their return to home station. However, the latest change will be added to the regulation when it is revised sometime this year, Morales said.

Nothing has changed regarding the placement of the flag, Morales said. It is sewn 1/2 inch below the shoulder seam. If a shoulder sleeve insignia for prior wartime service is also placed on the right shoulder, the flag is sewn 1/8 inch below the SSI-PWS.

“The flag is worn on the right shoulder to give the effect of the flag flying in the breeze as the wearer moves forward,” Morales said. “This will serve as a vivid reminder that our nation is at war.”

VOICES AND VIEWPOINTS

Single people need love too

Pfc. Emily Danial

Staff Writer

I have no use for Valentine's Day, and neither should anyone else.

All we have here is a highly commercialized day in honor of people who are already (supposedly) happily married or otherwise involved, complete with an abundant supply of fat-inducing sweets and allergy-inducing flowers.

Although I'm sure I'm not the first single person to gripe about the pointlessness of setting aside a day for people who use it to look smugly down their chocolate-smudged noses at those of us who didn't get a free dinner on Feb. 14, I would like to be one of those who suggests a way to be rid of this blight on the otherwise perfect image of the unattached individual.

The idea came to me the day before the Day, when my brother quite innocently asked me, "So, are you doing anything for Singles' Awareness Day?"

After relating my plans to hang out with my good friends Ben, Jerry and Margarita, I thought, "That's it! The solution!"

Why should Valentine's Day be just for sweethearts? Single people are the ones who really need love.

So here's my proposition for a new holiday to replace Valentine's Day, and since we have 360 days to prepare for next Feb. 14, there's no excuse for nonparticipation:

Rather than showering each other with love, gifts and chocolate, every couple will be assigned two single people on whom to lavish affection all throughout the day.

This day will be called, as previous-

Commentary

ly mentioned, **S i n g l e s'** Awareness Day — a day of recognition of every unfettered man and woman's accomplishment of proving him- or herself capable of a happy life, so far, without a constant companion.

I suppose the chocolate hearts and flowers can stay, but on one condition — anyone caught giving said items to his or her spouse or significant other instead of to the couple's assigned single people will be required to spend the remainder of the holiday in a locked room with a bottle of wine in one hand, a photo album of someone else's wedding pictures in the other hand, and a CD of the world's sappiest love songs playing at top volume on repeat.

Harsh, you say? I beg to differ. The only exception should be those couples who are not presently in the same area code as each other, i.e. Soldiers who are deployed and their spouses, etc. Those people are entitled to some special attention, too.

Not as much as the single people, though. We're expecting all you marrieds to really come through for us.

I'm talking about the whole nine yards — dinner, large cards in decorative envelopes, etc. — pretty much everything you would do for each other for Valentine's Day, without the self-satisfied smirks at those whom you consider less fortunate than yourselves, namely, us.



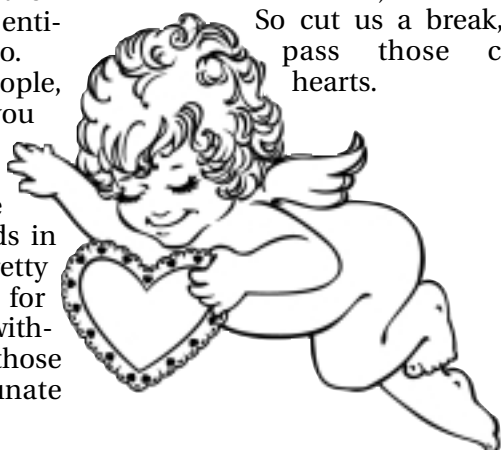
Now, I understand that most single men aren't as conscious of Valentine's Day as we single women usually are — in fact, most married men aren't as conscious of Valentine's Day as single women are — but that doesn't mean we should neglect them on Singles' Awareness Day.

Well, no, I take that back. Most single men get enough out of simply not being married that they celebrate their status every day of the year. Let's leave their recognition at just calling and leaving them a message reminding them that nobody is expecting anything from them for the whole day, and by the way that means no, they don't even have to get up and shower. There you go — life's instantly grand.

I realize this whole idea can potentially make me sound like I'm not altogether happy with my own marital status, or lack thereof, but the truth is quite the contrary. I just don't see why all my fellow single compatriots and I should be excluded from a holiday that includes free stuff, just because we've not met our Mr. or Mrs. Right.

We shouldn't. Our freedom should be celebrated, not alienated.

So cut us a break, and pass those candy hearts.



A Safety lesson in a flash

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Michael Licholat

Special to The Frontline

KOREA — In the spirit of accident prevention, sometimes we have to step up to the plate and take one for the team. Here's my humbling story, shared with a bit of humor.

There I was, five minutes away from delivering a briefing for a complicated air assault mission in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. I had only one chance to make a good first impression in front of our coalition brethren, so I was determined to put my best foot forward.

I rehearsed the mission briefing twice and spent considerable effort ensuring the briefing area was set up to my exacting specifications. I aligned all the benches, marked and posted all the charts and maps, and placed the manual pointer within arm's reach in case the laser pointer failed. With my notes at hand and the backup butcher posters and imagery, I was confident I could ace this brief even if the Proxima projector failed.

The projector had been warming up for a few minutes when I noticed there was some dust on the lens. Well, I wasn't going to stand for having a few specks casting shadows on my briefing! So, I went to the supply locker that our company S-4 dutifully kept stocked with admin-

istration supplies and got a can of compressed air to shoo away the offending motes.

We'd bought cases of the stuff before we deployed to blow the dirt and dust out of the cooling fans and circuit boards of our mission planning computers. We'd gone through our canned air like wildfire and were out of the "good stuff" we'd purchased back in the "Yoo Ess of Ay." However, our resourceful S-4 had replaced those with some canned air he'd bought in theater. I think it was from Italy, or somewhere else in Europe. Not being multilingual, I wasn't able to read the label.

I wasn't going to be bothered by that. I took the little plastic tube that came with the can and stuck it into the spray nozzle. I was thinking pleasant thoughts about how clear my presentation was going to be as I pointed the tube at the projector's lens. Those were my last pleasant thoughts.

I pushed down on the spray nozzle when suddenly there was a low-pitched boom. I was instantly engulfed in a ball of flame that one eyewitness conservatively estimated to be a good six feet in diameter. All the hair on my right arm was burned off, and the hair on my face was singed. Stunned, I dropped the can. The valve popped shut and the fire went out as quickly as it appeared.

After performing a quick assessment of my injuries, I left the briefing area for the tent where I slept, seeking a mirror so I could look for any additional damage. As I made my way out of the briefing tent amidst the arriving briefing attendants, the prominent comment was, "What is that smell?"

At my tent, my worst fears were confirmed — my moustache was now much shorter (but in direct compliance with Army Regulation 670-1!), my eyelashes were almost gone, and my eyebrow hairs were all curled up. Luckily, I'm what you'd call a "folically challenged" individual, so I didn't have anything on top to worry about.

A quick time hack revealed less than five minutes until briefing kick-off. I quickly washed up, used a pair of scissors to trim the burnt ends off my moustache and eyebrows, and then returned to the podium with a couple of minutes to spare.

Now I don't recommend this to anyone, but if you want to be calm when delivering a mission briefing, seek the feeling of euphoria that comes with no longer being a human torch. Usually the mission briefing is the least hazardous element of the mission and the execution phase is fraught with peril. Sadly, I had just proved otherwise!

So, how can you avoid having this happen to you? Most, if not all, of the canned air sold in America

is non-flammable and has warning labels to keep you from misusing the product. However, since we'd used up the "good stuff" we'd brought with us, the S-4 — who is habitually browbeaten to keep the cupboards from becoming bare — replaced it with whatever was closest at hand. You know, the "You want canned air? I'll get you canned air!" approach.

Unfortunately, the S-4 couldn't read the label either. That's something to bear in mind if you're buying commercial off-the-shelf, or COTS items in countries that lack the consumer protection guidelines we have in America.

In the end, the fault lay squarely on my shoulders. I took an aerosol can of unknown origin and sprayed it onto a projector containing a very hot light bulb, which provided a source of ignition. Furthermore, despite the fact that the can had a picture of a cat and a dog on it (I still don't know what that's all about), the back of the label had the word "Peligroso!" printed on it. I'm pretty sure that means danger.

In the end, I got lucky and avoided a serious burn by the hair of my chinny, chin ...uh oh ... those chin hairs are gone now. In the spirit of brotherhood, my comrades later hung a sign over my desk extolling my new nickname: "Flash! Do you mind if I smoke?"

Marne Voice

THE FRONTLINE

Readers respond to the question:

How important is prior military service in choosing a commander-in-chief?

"I think it's important. If he's been in the service before, he knows more about what's going on."

Erika Kimball
Military spouse



"It's very important; a president with military background would be greatly appreciated, someone who's been in our boots."

Staff Sgt. Darrell Boykin
A Co., HQ Cmd.

"It's important if he's prior enlisted, so he knows how it feels to be deployed and separated from family."

Sgt. Trina Cameron
B Co., 703rd MSB

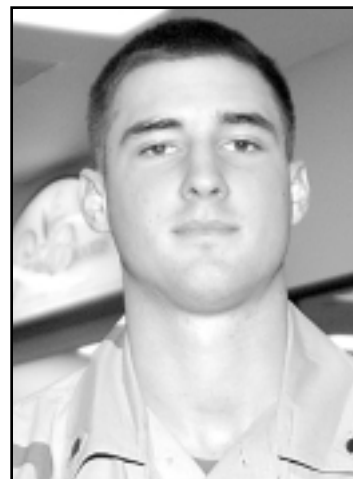


"It's important as long as he doesn't let it go to his head."

Frieda Riley
Prior service AAFES vendor

"It's important because of their experience, they know how Soldiers feel."

Richard Lawrence O'Cain
PX barber



"It's very important; I don't want some former senator who knows nothing about the military."

Spc. Chad Brown
343rd Qm. Co.

Voice your opinion!
Write a letter to the editor!

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Recycling is mandatory

Directorate of Public Works
Environmental & Natural Resources Division, Waste Management Branch

When it comes to recycling on Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield, the DPW is doing everything possible to make it as easy as disposing of your regular trash.

You may ask why is it so important for us to recycle at Stewart and Hunter. Well, for one, recycling is mandated by Army Regulation 200-4. Additionally, Executive Order 13101 requires all installations to reduce their solid waste destined for disposal by 40 percent by 2005. Last, but definitely not least, when we don't recycle, we are filling up valuable space in both on and off post landfills. Remember, no one wants a landfill in their back yard, and the more we recycle, the less we need landfills.

To keep Soldiers, residents, employees and visitors from having to go out of their way to recycle, convenience has been introduced into the Recycling Program.

First, family housing occupants were issued blue poly carts. Second, blue "recycling" dumpsters were placed next to brown trash dumpsters throughout the installation. Third, in addition to providing a convenient location to place your materials, we also eliminated most of the segregation hassles of recycling. In the old program, the customers were required to separate their aluminum cans, metal cans, glass bottles, etc. all in different containers. The new program is a co-mingled operation, which means you can mix most of the materials together in the same container.

However, in order to make the pro-



Photo Courtesyof DPW

gram truly effective, we must have the support of the Soldiers and workforce in their respective work areas. All facilities, building managers, and Unit Commanders should provide blue, clearly marked recycling containers inside each building and position them next to the trash cans, so no one has to take additional steps to recycle. These recycling containers are available at the installation's supply store. All paper products should be placed in one container with a clear plastic liner/bag. All office paper (shredded or un-shredded), news paper, junk mail, magazines, fliers, small cardboard, etc. can be mixed and placed in this lined container. At the end of the day or as it reaches capacity, all you have to do is tie the top closed and place it in the nearest blue recycle dumpster outside.

A second container should be provided in areas that might receive other non-paper type recyclables, such as a break room. This container is for aluminum cans, metal cans, plastics (#1, #2, and #5), and glass bottles. Ensure cans and bottles are free of all solids and liquids (rinse if necessary) prior to being placed in the recycle container. Again, at the end of the day or as necessary, take these items and deposit them in the nearest blue recycle dumpster outside.

Unit Commanders/facility man-

agers should also provide an area inside motor pools and similar activities to collect and stockpile large recyclable items, such as scrap metal and serviceable wooden pallets. As necessary, units should transport these items to the Stewart or Hunter Recycling Centers. The Recycling Centers should be notified in advance (Stewart 767-4727 or 767-5729, Hunter 352-5987), so a time and date can be set up to deliver the materials.

The Directorate of Public Works is taking our commitment to recycling one-step further. Within the next few months, Stewart and Hunter will officially become the first Department of Defense facility to be a certified Keep America Beautiful affiliate. By joining KAB, Stewart and Hunter is pledging to change habits and attitudes surrounding litter, solid waste, water conservation, and beautification.

While we are trying to make recycling as easy as possible for all those on the installation, the choice is ultimately in your hands. We urge the residents, Soldiers, employees, and visitors to not only do their part and recycle but also encourage others to do the same. Remember the 3 R's! REDUCE, REUSE, and RECYCLE!

If you have any questions about Stewart and Hunter's Recycling Program or Keep Stewart and Hunter Beautiful, please call David Hodges at 767-6237 or Carla Goodwin at 767-8880.

A copy of the Mandatory Recycling Guidance Document and most frequently asked questions and their answers can be found on Public Folders under DPW, Environmental & Natural Resources Division, Waste Management Branch.

MGB now reimburses for certification exams

Kathy Strand
Combat Support Education Counselor

Soldiers competing for promotion to sergeant and staff sergeant can now receive promotion points for approved technical certifications (Army Regulation 600-8-19) as of Jan. 20. Certification examinations document a person's level of competency and achievement in a particular area.

You can receive reimbursement through your Montgomery G.I. Bill for approved licensing and certification exams. Veteran Affairs can pay only for the cost of the tests and no other fees connected with obtaining a license or certification. You can obtain additional information explaining this benefit at the VA Web site, <http://www.gibill.va.gov/education/benefits.htm>.

The Credentialing Opportunities On-Line Web site (<https://www.cool.army.mil/>) was designed to help Soldiers:

- Find civilian credentials related to their military occupational specialties
- Understand what it takes to obtain the credentials
- See if there are available programs that will help pay credentialing fees.

Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Services will pay upfront for many Certification Exams. DANTES has approximately 60 agreements with nationally recognized certification associations. Military personnel may already have the experience and knowledge required to gain certification in their occupational specialties. You can obtain additional information on which certifications may be administered through your Army Education Center, which may be funded and the testing requirements at the DANTES Web site, http://www.dantes.doded.mil/dantes_web/certification/deph/pt3/index.htm or your Army Learning Center.

Combat Support Learning Center (Building 729) 767-2652

Combat Arms Learning Center (Building 1237) 767-8543/2269

Marne Army Learning Center (Building 506) 767-2618

Main Education Center (Building 130) 767-8331

Volunteers honored at Pot of Gold



Pfc. Benjamin T. Brody

Sgt. 1st Class Sarah Hayes, Nicole Bergeron



Pfc. Benjamin T. Brody

Stacia Gerber



Pfc. Benjamin T. Brody

(Left to right) Alisa Armstead, Sgt. Brandi Crawley, Susan Gaines, Veronica Lee, Joyce Maar-Barthel, and BJ Winborne.



Pfc. Benjamin T. Brody

Michelle Maxwell, Sharon Binion



Sgt. Craig Zentkovich

Maj. Gen. William G. Webster, Jr., commanding general 3rd Inf. Div., poses with volunteers, Christy Balbo, Soraya Cuerto, Traci Bannon, Brooke Mendenhall, Rachelle Crotzer, Jennifer Gilbertson, and Ronald Ragin at the Hunter Army Airfield ceremony.



Pfc. Benjamin T. Brody

(Left) Back row, from left: Sherry Alexander, Amparita Aponte, Renee Barnett, Donna Braasch, Marty Denby, Cindy Hoefler. Front row, from left : Stephanie McGraw, Lisa Meads, Felecia Neal, Theresa Nolan, Jacqueline Perr, Patricia Smythe, and Shauncy Young.



Pfc. Benjamin T. Brody

Stacey Foust



PLDC

from page 1A

Command Sgt. Maj. Albert D. Newton, Noncommissioned Officer Academy commandant, said he was first introduced to Virtual Leader while he was at a Forces Command conference

Newton said he thought the visually oriented, interactive program would intensify the academy's training, and chose to introduce it to one of his PLDC classes as a trial.

"I wanted to demonstrate it to a brand new class, then send a report to FORSCOM along with whether I recommended it or not," he said.

After only a few hours with Virtual Leader, Newton said he thought it would prove to be a valuable asset to PLDC Soldiers.

"It puts the Soldiers inside of the training," he said.

While using Virtual Leader, students are placed into a simulated workplace in which

they are the authority figure and given all the information they need to make decisions, plan strategies, hone different methods of leadership and determine which method should be used when.

Aldrich said the concept of Virtual Leader was developed after observing the shortcomings of conventional leadership training methods, such as the small amount of time devoted to role-play in classrooms.

"A lot of kids who spend a lot of time playing computer games are very bored in classrooms, so you have this real difference there between the engagement level of computer interaction and people who just don't get enough out of a classroom," Aldrich said.

"We wanted to build a leadership program that had a lot of the qualities of a

computer game and we were able to teach people at a much deeper level," he said.

As a result, Virtual Leader is made up entirely of role-play, and allows students to devote as much time as necessary to any given scenario.

"The way we do a lot of traditional training is almost like if you had a firing range and you were only allowed to fire two or three shots," he said. "You couldn't learn very much.

"At a range, you fire and fire and fire until it's almost automatic," Aldrich said. "(Virtual Leader) is the opportunity to practice again and again and again under different circumstances and different strategies of leadership. To be able to give anyone the opportunity to practice ... without the pressure of somebody even watching you, necessarily, allows people to

get a lot more rounds of experience in."

He said since the Army has always used simulations as part of its training, Virtual Leader would be easy to integrate into the system.

"The Army is probably one of the greatest training organizations in the entire world," Aldrich said. "The shift that the Army is making from using simulations just to teach machinery and hardware to using them to teach soft skills is, I think, another place where it's pioneering and doing things better than universities and corporations."

Newton said he is looking forward to seeing the results of Virtual Leader.

"We strive to be the best, to improve our battle position," he said. "We want to use this technology to help leaders on the battlefield."

COTTONBALERS

from page 1A

crews' progress. It is customary to be evaluated by someone outside the unit for impartiality, Moore said.

Laura Friedel, military legislative assistant to Georgia Democratic Senator Zell Miller attended the gunnery and observed. She listened to explanations of the exercise from 2/7 commander Lt. Col. Todd Wood and 1st Brigade commander Col. William Grimsley, then ate a Meal, Ready to Eat with the A Co. troops as Bradleys blasted away behind them.

During the meal, Moore played the

company theme song, "Rage", with lyrics referencing the unit's accomplishments during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Moore and his friend Timothy Rogers wrote and recorded the track.

Five crews qualified during the gunnery, and before she left, Friedel took a detailed tour of a Bradley with Sgt. Nicholas Driggers, who Wood praised as one of the battalion's best gunners.

"I had a great time out here," Friedel said. "The Bradley was really interesting — I was amazed by its complexity."



Pic. Benjamin T. Brody

Laura Friedel, military legislative assistant to Georgia Democrat Sen. Zell Miller, explores one of 2/7's Bradley Fighting Vehicles Feb. 11.

ARMOR

from page 1A

There is a lot of pride in making sure that the tanks are fully functional so they don't falter down range, Brown added.

A tank crew is made up of four personnel.

"You've got the driver who puts the tank where it is supposed to be, the loader who makes sure the guns are armed and spots targets, the gunner who pulls the trigger and the tank commander," said Spc. Wesley Gass, A Company, 1/64 Armor gunner.

The other crew members can't make up for the fault of one, so teamwork is important, Brown said.

There are a lot of crews that haven't worked together before or been on a tank, so it is important that they get out and become familiar and become confident in their vehicles prior to going to NTC, Brown said.

They need to be proficient in their jobs and complete their tasks successfully every time and allow those rounds to go down range and kill targets, Brown said.

Once we instill in the crews the confidence in their vehicles, they are unstoppable, Brown said.

It showed out here the past few days that if you get a good bore sight and zero, then these tanks will hit, Brown said.

"My crew hit every target," said Spc. Clyde Whitlodge, A Co., 1/64 Armor gunner.

If these crews can't hit and perform on their tanks as a team, then obviously they have to be removed or switched out, Brown said. The chain of command evaluates the situation and the crews, which in turn will be used for future training operations.

Even though most of these guys have been to Operation Iraqi Freedom, they are still excited about their job, Brown said.

Constant training is the reason they did so well in the war, Whitlodge added.

Before coming to Tank Table 8, the crews go through a series of simulations, Brown said. They go through the Conduct-to-Fire trainer and Post Combat Tactical Trainer for platoons.

"Soldiers perform prep-to-fire checks, the loading the gun, bore sighting and zeroing for the tank and 50-caliber machine gun," Brown said. This training makes sure the crews are proficient and aware of what they have to do down range, Brown added.

Brown said, "If you do not get out and practice what you do then you aren't going to be good at it. Being out here at the range makes sure their skills are sharp."

Coping with stress: ACS classes help Soldiers, families deal with Army life

Spc. Jacob Boyer
Staff Writer

Army life can be stressful. Life at Fort Stewart is no exception. Soldiers and their families deal with being part of a rapidly-deployable unit, constant field operations, financial issues and domestic issues, said Pamela Cox, a family advocacy program manager for Army Community Service.

But ACS offers a way to help people dealing with stress before it becomes too much to bear.

When Soldiers and their family members find themselves unable to deal with the pressures of life, they can turn to ACS' stress management classes for help, Cox said.

The three-hour class is held twice a month for Soldiers and dependents who can either volunteer or be referred to it, she said. In addition, units can request a class separately for their Soldiers.

"The class is here to provide education and techniques for reducing and preventing stress at

home and at work," Cox explained. "We want to reduce the influence of high work and family stress."

Cox said stress is "the body's natural reaction to tension, pressure or change." There are three different kinds of stress: acute, episodic and chronic.

The first two types of stress are usually short-term, she said. Acute stress can occur when body chemistry undergoes changes. One example of a change that can lead to acute stress is when a person starts a new diet. The stress can last until the body adjusts to its new circumstances.

Episodic stress happens when an event causes a person problems. "If it can happen, it happens," Cox said.

Chronic stress is more long-term, she continued. Injuries that occur during a deployment can lead to this, as well as any number of problems that can bother a person: financial trouble, issues at home and ongoing problems at work can all lead to chronic stress.

"Some can pack all their feelings in until they have one big explosion because they don't know how to vent assertively."

Pamela Cox
Family Advocacy Program Manager

Stress can impact the body in many ways, she said. It can lead to eating disorders such as bulimia and anorexia, acne breakouts and shortness of breath.

The psychological aspects of stress can be dangerous to the person experiencing it and those around them, Cox said. A stressed-out person can find it hard to focus or concentrate and put himself in dangerous situations.

"People can get in the car, drive home and not remember

anything about the drive," she said. "That's extremely dangerous."

Stress can also lead to a breakdown in a person's ability to communicate, Cox said.

"They don't know how to properly communicate how they feel to somebody else," she said. "Some can pack all their feelings in until they have one big explosion because they don't know how to vent assertively."

The class consists of several exercises to help people cope with stress, Cox said. It teaches them to set time aside for themselves and activities they enjoy.

"It's important for people to increase their pleasurable activities," she said. "People don't become stressed-out overnight. By going back and looking at what they used to do, they can make changes to get some of that pleasure back into their lives."

People enrolled in the class also learn to set priorities that can help them in their decision-

making at home and work, Cox said.

"We have them put a lot of stuff on paper because it helps them see how their lives have become stressful," she said. "It's one thing to have it (in your head), but it's another to actually look at it. It makes things easier to comprehend."

Cox said the class is "very valuable" for people who need help coping.

"A lot of people leave the class feeling a lot better," she said. If you need it, I really suggest you get the help you need. Everybody knows their weak points. It's valuable to recognize them and get help before it's mandated."

Soldiers and dependents who are interested in the class can contact ACS' Family Advocacy Program at 767-5058 or request it through their chains of command. It is held the second Tuesday of each month from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Army issues dietary supplement safety message

Kevin Larson
FORSCOM News Service

U.S. Army medical and safety professionals recently issued a "Safetygram" to inform Soldiers and their family members about the risks of using dietary supplements.

Although current Army regulations do not prohibit Soldiers from using them, Soldiers need to be aware of the health effects and impacts on performance caused by dietary supplements.

Some dietary supplements' effects are well understood, while the effects of others are largely unknown, said U.S. Army Forces Command Surgeon Col. Gerald Cross.

"Loads of supplements are available in stores ranging from caffeine to ginseng, and many more," Cross said. "Caffeine is found in ordinary coffee. A cup or two of coffee containing caffeine may delay fatigue, but in large amounts it can cause

nervousness and increased pulse rate. Ginseng is added to some beverages to promote energy. While it may be safe in small doses, little benefit has been established scientifically."

The bottom line, according to Army medical and safety professionals, is that dietary supplements are not a safe choice for Soldiers or their families. The lack of government oversight on dietary supplements is one reason to be cautious about supplements, Cross said.

"Supplements do not receive the same level of oversight from the Food and Drug Administration that prescription medicines receive," Cross said. "There is little scientific research about some supplements so their side effects, interactions with other drugs,

and long-term effects are not established. Also, quality control has been a problem with some companies — leading to concerns about the ingredients in some products."

If Soldiers are taking dietary supplements, they should tell their health care provider what they are taking, Cross said. While a dietary supplement may not be unsafe for everyone, it could be unsafe for specific people.

"This important information may help the doctor explain some laboratory variations and might be used to prevent interactions with prescribed medication," he said.

For more information on dietary supplements, visit <http://www.usuhs.mil/-mim/ergopam.pdf> or [http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/dhpw/Wellness/die](http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/dhpw/Wellness/dietary.aspx)

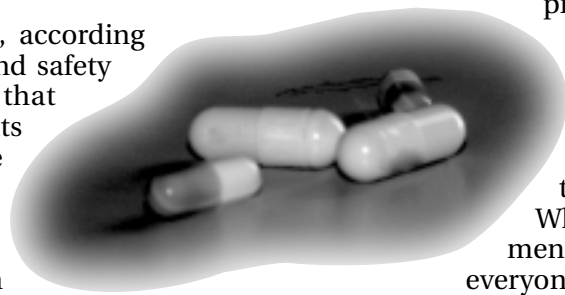
[tary.aspx](http://www.usuhs.mil/-mim/ergopam.pdf).

More than half of the population of the U.S. uses dietary supplements, according to the Food and Drug Administration. Vitamins, minerals, amino acids, proteins, herbal supplements, glandular extracts and other animal products are all considered dietary supplements.

The FDA does not regulate dietary supplements. Advertising and labelling are also unregulated, so the supplements may not necessarily match the claims or contents.

However, the FDA can ban a dietary supplement that is a significant and unreasonable risk to a person's health. Ephedra was banned last month by the FDA in the United States because of safety issues.

The FDA put the ban into effect after conducting an "exhaustive and highly resource intensive process" required by the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act of 1994.



ACAP: Giving separating Soldiers resources to find careers

Spc. Jacob Boyer

Staff writer

When Soldiers leave the Army, they go to a new way of life and a new career. The Army Career and Alumni Program makes sure Soldiers who are separating for any reasons have the resources to find the best careers for themselves and their families.

“It’s easy to find a job,” said Louisa Sigman, ACAP’s transition services manager. “A person can go to the restaurants here in town and find a job today or tomorrow, but is that what they want? It’s a lot harder and more time-consuming to find a meaningful and fulfilling career.”

ACAP offers mandatory pre-separation counseling and voluntary job search assistance to all separating Soldiers and their eligible family members, she said. Mandatory family members include spouses and children over the age of 18 with a military ID card. Soldiers can participate in ACAP up to 12 months before their estimated termination of service dates. Soldiers who are retiring can begin using the program up to two years before they retire.

Another group that can use ACAP’s services is Soldiers who are leaving the Army through a Chapter action, Sigman said.

“Anyone pending Chapter action should make an appointment immediately upon notification,” she said. “Even without orders, they can come to us. They just have to know that it’s coming.”

Sigman said it is important for Soldiers to start using the program as soon as possible, because it will allow them to balance their personal needs with the training needs of their units.

“Looking for a career can be a full-time job,” she said. “And Soldiers still have to look after their military obligations. There are training exercises, (National Training Center) rotations and a number of other duties they have to their units. The sooner they start, the better they will be able to balance those obligations against their personal needs.”

All Soldiers who are separating are required to attend the pre-separation counseling, Sigman said. The purpose of the counseling is to develop a plan to aid in the Soldier’s transition. During the session, Soldiers are introduced to various programs that can help them in many areas as they move from military to civilian life.

“We’re not subject matter experts, but we do know where to send them,” she said. “We talk about a lot of things and give them food for thought.”

The counseling educates Soldiers about Veterans’

Administration benefits they may be eligible for, Montgomery G.I. Bill benefits, insurance to cover them after separation until they find a job, enlisting in the National Guard and Reserve, and several other things that will help their transition go more smoothly, Sigman said.

Although Soldiers are not required to use the job search assistance that ACAP offers, Sigman said they should make use of it. The program offers counselors and computers Soldiers and their family members can use to help them develop a resume and find a career.

“We’re teaching life skills that Soldiers and their families can take with them to use forever. Adults change jobs five times in their work lifetimes. You should always have a resume ready so if an opportunity comes along, you’re ready.”

Sigman said sometimes Soldiers feel they don’t need a resume, but it is important in their efforts to find a post-Army career.

“The resume is the ticket to an interview,” she said. “It gives Soldiers a one-up on some of their civilian counterparts. We can help translate their military service into civilian skills. Most employers will ask for a resume, and our counselors are here to help.”

ACAP can help Soldiers decide if getting out of the Army is the right choice for them, Sigman said. Some Soldiers start using the program and realize they want to stay in the Army.

“In doing research in the job market, some of them find being in the Army is a good thing and reenlist,” she said. “They see the benefits jobs on the outside offer, and it’s very difficult to match (the Army’s) benefits on the outside. Over 300 Soldiers who started the program last year reenlisted.”

ACAP also brings employers to Fort Stewart so Soldiers can learn more about the civilian job market, Sigman said. They hold two job fairs a year that link Soldiers up with civilian employers. The next job fair will be April 28 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Club Stewart.

Sigman said Soldiers who start using the program early have a better chance of finding a career that will be rewarding for themselves and their families.

“The more they use the tools here, the more aware they are of what’s out there,” she said. “Some times Soldiers may say, ‘I just want out of the Army,’ but they need to research the outside to find out if it’s a good decision. They need to answer questions about their jobs, salaries and benefits. If they have a plan that includes their family, they’ll be a lot more successful.”

Fire

from page 2A

of RTI’s Tactical Medic Program — designed to train medics who directly support emergency response teams.

“The training allows the students to focus on patient care while operating in a real-world scenario — everybody has a chance to do their thing.”

The casualties, who included authorities and civilians, exposed to caustic substances from the explosion were sent to the HFD decontamination station following their initial medical treatment.

While HFD decontaminated casualties, the CCPD team searched for and apprehended the suspects in the woods behind the shoot house.

Overall, the participants in the

exercise were very pleased with the training.

“Due to (the G8 summit) coming here in June, it’s advantageous to everyone — the Chatham County Sheriff’s Department, and other local and federal agencies, to train together.”

Degnan agreed, “(The HFD firefighters) learned some very valuable lessons in working together with local agencies. Ultimately, everyone involved in the joint training wins.”

According to Degnan, the events of Sept. 11, 2001, proved that one agency couldn’t handle catastrophes of that magnitude alone. “The more we can do to prepare (for future emergencies), the better off we will be.”

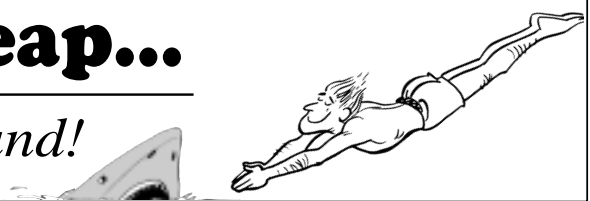


Sgt. Craig Zentkovich

Members of the Hunter Army Airfield Fire Department make last-minute adjustments on a field expedient mass decontamination station during a training exercise at Hunter Jan. 30.

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Reserve MPs keeping convoy routes clear

Sgt. 1st Class Kelly Luster

USAR, Public Affairs Office

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq — Hardly a day goes by when the Soldiers of the 341st Military Police Company don't experience some sort of hostile activity.

"We like to call ourselves 'Combat MPs,'" said Sgt. Mark Estes of the 341st, an Army Reserve unit from San Jose, Calif. "What we do keeps us on our toes every-day."

The 341st is tasked with clearing and monitoring the main supply route from Logistical Support Area Anaconda south to the border of the 1st Armor Division's area of responsibility.

What that entails, Estes said, "is being briefed at about 6:30 a.m. and then driving the route to our checkpoint. We look for any hostile activity, enemy personnel, or that looks out of place from previous runs."

Estes said once they travel the route and are sure it's clear, they radio back to the convoy commanders and let them know it's safe. But their job doesn't end there.

"After the convoy is clear we stop along the route and wait for trouble," Estes said. "Almost everyday something happens along the route and we need to be close by to react." The "something" Estes said is anything from Improvised Explosive Devices, to small arms fire or rocket propelled grenade attacks to vehicle break downs.

"The Iraqis know the routes we use and conceal IEDs along this and other supply routes almost everyday," Estes said. "IEDs are one of the biggest problems. They are getting more sophisticated and more deadly. Sometimes you can't even tell if an IED is a piece of debris or what it is."

Enemy personnel have done almost anything imaginable with IEDs, Estes said.

"They'll bury them along the road or



Sgt. 1st Class Kelly Luster

Cpl. Robert Hugman of the 341st MP Co., tells an Iraqi man through an interpreter that an explosive device was found 200 yards down the road.

hide them under a dead animal on the road," he said. "When we drive the route we try to stay in the middle of the road. Most of the IEDs we have experienced have been to one side or the other."

If the MPs find something suspicious along the route they radio back to their headquarters and will stop traffic. Stopping traffic along the main supply route, is like shoveling sand with a fork. The locals will stop for a short period of

time until they become impatient. If traffic doesn't move in short order, they will do anything to get around the blockage.

"Sometimes, if we've stopped traffic for some reason, the Iraqis will cross over into the opposite lane and travel in the wrong direction," Estes said. "What they don't realize is that what we are doing is trying to protect them as well as our Soldiers. We don't want anybody hurt. What is sad is that it is their own people

causing this."

Spc. Juan Cruz II, MP, often stands ready on the Squad Attack Weapon, in the turret of the HUMVEE. However, Cruz wasn't always traveling the MSR with the patrols.

"My original job for the company is supply specialist," Cruz said. "But we are short handed and need the manpower. So when my first sergeant asked for volunteers, I said yes." According to Cruz, before he ever went on a patrol he was brought up to speed by his fellow Soldiers.

"Doing a patrol is a lot different than sitting in a supply room," Cruz said. "We work as a team and watch each other's backs. Now, I'd rather be on a patrol with my team than doing paper work. Even though it's a little dangerous, it has made the time here go by so much quicker. And I feel like I am making a difference here."

"Not everyday is good," Cruz said. "Some days here are great — like when we (U.S. Forces) captured Saddam Hussein. Some days are long and others are short. I just try to keep as busy as I can."

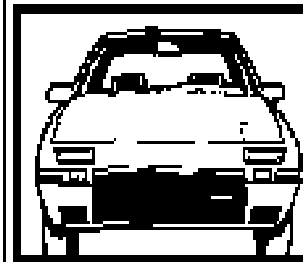
Cruz said he looks forward to going home and seeing his family. Cruz received the call he was coming to Iraq one week before his wedding.

"I was mobilized the day after I was married," Cruz said. "When I get time off, I call and talk to my wife. This has been very hard for her. But she's doing okay, especially since she knows when I'll be home."

A good thing, according to Cruz, is that the Iraqi people are starting to change.

"These people are strong," Cruz said. "They just had a bad leader who didn't care about them. They are starting to realize that we are here to help them. Things are always getting better. When we stop on the side of the road and see the smiles on the kid's faces, it's awesome. We know they haven't smiled like that in a long time."

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Future road closures

Provost Marshal Office

Special to The Frontline

Fort Stewart Public Safety officials announced today that Georgia highways Ga. 119, Ga. 47, and Ga. 144 on Fort Stewart will be closed on the following days: Feb. 23 through 27; March 8 through 12 and March 22 through 31, 2004.

Soldiers, civilian employees and contractors with valid Department of Defense decals (blue, red, green, or black) will be allowed access through post boundaries on these days in the morning from 5 to 8 a.m. and in the evening 4 to 7 p.m. to facilitate their normal duties on the installation. Military tactical vehicles and Government Supply Agency vehicles that do not normally require a decal will continue to be able to go through post boundary gates during these times. During the remaining hours of the day Ga. 119, Ga. 144, and Ga. 47 will be closed to all traffic with the exception of emergency vehicles, tactical vehicles, and ammunition delivery trucks.

Installation Public Safety officials encourage all Soldiers and affiliated civilians to register their vehicles and get the installation DoD decals prior to these road closures. Passes will not be issued at the road closure points under any circumstances. All vehicles that do not display a permanent DoD decal will be directed to Gate 1 for

vehicle registration. Vehicles found with expired or unserviceable decals will also be redirected to Gate 1 for registration. Their outmoded decals will be removed on the spot.

Ga. 119 North will be closed from cantonment area Gate 6 to Installation boundary. During these days, individuals traveling from the Pembroke area to Stewart or from Stewart to Pembroke area will be required to use either U.S. 280, I-95, U.S. 17, Ga. 196 and U.S. 84, or via Glennville using U.S. 280, U.S. 25, and Ga. 196.

Ga. 144 East will be closed from installation boundary on the Richmond Hill side near I-95 to 144 West at the intersection of Fort Stewart 1/County Road 63. During these days individuals traveling from the Richmond Hill area to or from Stewart will be required to use U.S. 17, Ga. 196 and U.S. 84. Individuals traveling from Glennville area to or from Stewart will be required to use U.S. 25, and Ga. 196.

Ga. 47/Sunbury Road will be closed 40 meters north of the Wright Army Airfield turn off, with a Detour at Ga. 47/Sunbury and Joseph Martin Drive leading vehicles back to U.S. 84 in Hinesville. During the closure times, individuals living between the Detour and Stewart boundary will be allowed access to their homes. Individuals requiring access from U.S. 84 will be required to use either General Screven Avenue to Gate 1 or Olmstead Drive to

Gate 2.

Military Police will be stationed at all road blocks/detours to direct traffic. Patrol vehicles will be monitoring the highways to ensure that only authorized vehicles are traveling on them.

Any personnel operating personally owned or GSA vehicles requiring access out of cantonment area Gates 6 or 3 to reach their work destination, will be required to have their officer in charge or manager bring a signed memorandum with the number of passes requested to the Military Police Station, Building #280 to obtain the appropriate number of permits needed for their agency. These requests will be kept on file at the PMO. A permanent permit will be issued to replace the temporary paper passes that have been used for the two previous road closures. This permit will be shown to the Military Police at Gate 6 or Gate 3 allowing exit/entrance to the cantonment. Agencies affected include (but are not limited to) Evans Army Airfield, Range Control, Noncommissioned Officers Academy, Holbrook Pond, and the Ammunition Supply Point. Tactical vehicles will not need a pass to use cantonment area gates.

Further questions may be directed to the Fort Stewart PMO Operations office during the duty day at 767-1721, or the MP Desk 24 hours a day at 767-4895.

3220th GSU's Black History Program

Presents an evening of
“Above the Clouds”

Wednesday
7 p.m. at Club Stewart

This event features Walter Morris, retired first sergeant of “*The Triple Nickels*”, the 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion (1944 - 1947) — the nation's first all-black parachute infantry test platoon, company and battalion.

Stewart

Paperback kits
Fort Stewart Library provides paperback kits for units, through the unit chaplains, for recreational reading during deployments, exercises and for unit day room collections. Call 767-0805 to pick up your kit.

Marne Tax Center
The Marne Tax Center will be open until April 15. The hours of operation are:

Feb. and March
Monday through Friday
9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Saturday (ending March 13)
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

April
Monday through Friday
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
The center is located in Bldg. 9611 in the National Guard Training Area. Currently, there is little or no wait to receive services. With free electronic filing, customers will receive their refund in less than seven days.
For more information call the tax center at 767-3909.

Annual Technology Show
The annual Georgia Information Technology Show will be held at Club Stewart Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 2

p.m. This event is free to all personnel. Extensive catering will be provided. For more information call 1 (888) 282-2262, or e-mail: info@atc-expo.com or visit www.atc-expo.com/shows.

Celebrate Black History Month
The Hunter garrison command sergeant major will be the guest speaker at the Fort Stewart Black History Month Celebration 1:30 p.m., today at Woodruff Theater. The commanding general is inviting the entire community to attend this free event. The 2004 theme is "Brown vs. Board of Education — 50th Anniversary." In addition, the Division Support Command dining facility will serve a lunchtime soul food menu starting at 11:30 a.m.

National Prayer Breakfast
This breakfast is scheduled for March 4, 7 a.m. at Club Stewart. There is no charge and tickets will be issued to unit sergeants major.

Express Lunch
Express lunch is now being served every weekday at Club Stewart in the Club Stewart Lobby from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Hunter

Black History Month Lunch
The Hunter Club will host a luncheon celebrating Black History Month, Friday, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tickets for the event are \$6.50.

Youth babysitting classes
There will be a babysitting class for ages 13 and up Saturday, from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. The cost for this class is \$10 and all attendees must have a CYS membership.
For more information call 352-5708/6075.

Pay day golf scramble
A pay day golf scramble is being held Feb. 27 at noon at the Hunter Golf Club. All members of Hunter and Stewart communities are eligible to compete. For more information call 352-5622.

3ID Purple Heart recipients
The Richmond Hill Chapter of the American Legion have \$5,000 yet to be claimed in their purple heart fund for Soldiers of the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) wounded in combat.
For more information contact John Ellis at 695-0735.

Hunter Tax Center
The Tax Center, located in

Building 1279 on Neal Blvd. (behind the Ranger PT field), is open and currently there is little or no wait to receive services. With free electronic filing, customers will receive their refund in less than seven days.

Hours of operation are:
Feb. and March
Monday through Friday
9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Saturday (ending March 13)
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
April
Monday through Friday
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
For more information, call 352-5278.

Thrift Shop
The Hunter Thrift Shop is open on Wednesday, Friday and the first Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., with consignments accepted from military identification card holders from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
It has a great assortment of bargains from baby clothes to furniture.
All proceeds are returned to the Hunter Community in scholarships, grants to units, and through other military organizations. Donations are accepted and volunteers are always welcome at the shop.
For more information contact the Hunter Thrift Shop at 352-0376.

Winn Army Community Hospital

Book Appointments Online
Schedule Wellness appointments online at www.winn.amedd.army.mil. Wellness appointments are routine visits to clinics such as family practice and pediatrics. First-time users must complete the one-time online registration prior to scheduling an appointment.

Parking Tickets, Towing
Beneficiaries parking in fire lanes, as designated by a red curb or orange cones, will be ticketed or towed by the Military Police. Additional parking is available in a parking lot on Harmon Ave., adjacent to Winn and next to the sports complex.

Intervention Services
Military families with children up to 3 years old who may be at risk for developmental delays can call Educational and Developmental Intervention Services for a free screening. Services include home visits, occupational therapy, special instruction, physical therapy, speech and language therapy, vision and hearing screenings, family training, developmental screenings and assessments.
For more information,

call 370-6349.
"Take Care of Yourself"
The next "Take Care of Yourself" classes at Winn will be held 2 to 3 p.m. March 10 and 11 a.m. to noon March 24. Tuttle's class will be held 10 to 11 a.m. March 24. The class gives an overview of how to use the "Take Care of Yourself" book. Upon completing the class, you will receive a card that allows you to get over-the-counter medications from Winn or Tuttle. To register for the March 10 class, call 370-5071. To register for Winn's March 24 class, call 368-3048 and to register for Tuttle's class, call 1-800-652-9221.

Tobacco Cessation Classes
Tobacco Cessation classes at Winn will be held 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. every Thursday from April 1 to April 22 or 6 to 8 p.m. every Tuesday from March 30 to April 20. Tuttle's class will be held 1 to 3 p.m. every Wednesday from March 3 to March 24. The class will help you kick the habit, whether smoking, chewing or dipping. To register at Winn, call 370-5071.
To register at Tuttle, call 1-800-652-9221.

Marne TV

February
2004
Schedule

Marne TV can be found on Comcast Cable Channel 16 every day of the week. Tune in to the Marne Report seven times a day for the latest from Stewart and Hunter.

5 a.m. Army Newswatch
5:30 a.m. MARNE REPORT
6:30 a.m. Air Force News
7 a.m. Navy News
7:30 a.m. Army Newswatch
8 a.m. MARNE REPORT
9 a.m. Air Force News
9:30 a.m. Navy News
11:30 a.m. Army Newswatch

Noon MARNE REPORT
1 p.m. Air Force News
4:30 p.m. Navy News
5 p.m. MARNE REPORT
6 p.m. Army Newswatch
6:30 p.m. Air Force News
7 p.m. Navy News
10 p.m. MARNE REPORT
11 p.m. Army Newswatch
11:30 p.m. Air Force News



Stop Overpopulation,
Spay or Neuter Your Pet Today!!

POLICE REPORTS

- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 26-year-old male, separate battalion
 - **Charge:** Simple assault
 - **Location:** Hunter
- **Subject:** Specialist, 20-year-old male, separate battalion
 - **Charges:** Fighting in public affray, simple battery against a police officer, disorderly conduct, underage drinking, public drunkenness, obstruction by resisting, fraudulent use of military identification
 - **Location:** Savannah
- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 21-year-old male, 2nd Brigade
 - **Charges:** Driving under the influence, no insurance, too fast for conditions
 - **Location:** Hinesville
- **Subject:** Specialist, 24-year-old male, separate battalion
 - **Charges:** No driver's license, no insurance
 - **Location:** Hinesville
- **Subject:** Specialist, 24-year-old male, separate battalion
 - **Charges:** Simple battery, obstruction
 - **Location:** Savannah
- **Subject:** Specialist, 22-year-old male, separate battalion
 - **Charges:** False official statement, failure to obey
 - **Location:** Hunter
- **Subject:** Specialist, 21-year-old male, separate battalion
 - **Charges:** Failure to yield at yield sign, expired tags
 - **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Civilian, 18-year-old female
 - **Charge:** Shoplifting
 - **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Civilian, 24-year-old female
 - **Charge:** Driving while license suspended

- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 20-year-old male, separate battalion
 - **Charge:** Larceny of private property
 - **Location:** Hunter
- **Subject:** Sergeant, 34-year-old male, separate battalion
 - **Charges:** False official statement, dereliction of duty, suffering loss of military property through neglect
 - **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Private 2, 21-year-old female, separate battalion
- **Charges:** Deposit account fraud, failure to appear
 - **Location:** Hinesville
- **Subject:** Private, 28-year-old male, 2nd Brigade
 - **Charges:** Larceny of government property, wrongful possession of marijuana
 - **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Family Member, 30-year-old female
 - **Charge:** Aggravated assault
 - **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Civilian, 28-year-old male
 - **Charges:** Larceny of government funds, fraud, mail fraud, signing a false official statement
 - **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Specialist, 22-year-old female, separate battalion
 - **Charges:** Wrongful possession of cocaine, wrongful use of cocaine, false official statement

- **Location:** Savannah
- **Subject:** Private, 20-year-old male, separate battalion
 - **Charges:** Wrongful possession of marijuana, wrongful use of marijuana
 - **Location:** Hunter
- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 20-year-old male, separate battalion
 - **Charges:** Wrongful possession of marijuana with intent to distribute, wrongful possession of cocaine, wrongful possession of marijuana, wrongful use of marijuana, wrongful possession of drug paraphernalia
 - **Location:** Hunter
- **Subject:** Sergeant, 25-year-old male, separate battalion
 - **Charge:** Theft by shoplifting
 - **Location:** Hunter
- **Subject:** Specialist, 23-year-old male, 24th Support Group
 - **Charges:** Driving under the influence, no seatbelts, no insurance, weaving, child endangerment
 - **Location:** Walthourville
- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 18-year-old male, Aviation Brigade
 - **Charges:** Wrongful appropriation of private vehicle, damage to private property
 - **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 21-year-old male, 1st Brigade
 - **Charges:** Driving under the influence, obstruction of justice, weaving over road
 - **Location:** Hinesville
- **Subject:** Family Member, 39-year-old female
 - **Charge:** Improper backing
 - **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 20-year-old male, 1st Brigade
 - **Charge:** Leaving vehicle unattended
 - **Location:** Fort Stewart

ASK THE JUDGE

Cancellation of Indebtedness

Q: *Hey Judge, I have a problem. I damaged a military vehicle a few months ago and my unit initiated a Report of Survey against me. They found me liable for damage in the amount of \$900. I submitted a rebuttal and then a request for reconsideration in an attempt to have the finding of liability overturned, with no success. I am still on the hook for \$900. My chain of command knows that my finances are a mess and that I really cannot afford this debt. They have told me that the Army might let me pay this off over time. I am afraid that I will not be able to afford to pay this even over time. I have a number of bills to pay and I am worried about feeding my family. I love being a Soldier and I really want to stay in the Army, but I am afraid that they will chapter me out if I cannot get my finances squared away. Is there anything else I can do?*

A: Because you have exhausted all of the appeals processes in the report of survey system, you might consider seeking cancellation of this debt. In a limited number of cases the Army will allow complete debt forgiveness for enlisted Soldiers who have been held liable for loss, damage or destruction of government property under the report of survey system. Army Regulation 600-4 governs this practice. Be advised, however, that very few of these requests are approved.

Q: *How do I make a request to have my debt canceled?*

A: The first thing you should do is read AR 600-4 to see if your circumstances qualify for this program. In order to have your debt canceled, it generally must be more than \$100 and you must not have paid the debt before initiating the request for cancellation with your company commander. If you have already paid part of the debt, you may still seek cancellation of the unpaid balance of the

debt. Most importantly, you must be able to demonstrate that being required to pay the debt would constitute a severe hardship for you and your family. Proving a sufficiently severe hardship to warrant debt cancellation is usually the hardest part of the process.

Q: *If I think I qualify, what should I do next?*

A: If you look in the back of AR 600-4, you will find a copy of Department of the Army Form 3508-R, Application for Remission or Cancellation of Indebtedness. Follow the instructions in Chapter 2 of AR 600-4 in completing the form and submit it to your company commander with a request that he or she review it and pass it up the chain of command following the instructions in Chapter 3 of AR 600-4. The final decision on your request will be made at the Department of Army level. Remember that this practice of debt cancellation is only for extraordinary circumstances and only cases of true hardship are likely to be approved.

Q: *What happens while my request is pending? Will the Army hold off on collecting the \$900?*

A: No. Right now you are liable to the government for \$900. If a decision has been made to pro-rate your debt, you will begin to see an amount deducted on your LES each month to pay off the debt. However, if you are eventually granted a complete cancellation of indebtedness, the government should return any money collected after your commander processed the DA Form 3508-R. It is in your best interest to file the request as soon as possible and hope for the best. Remember, however, that cancellations are only given in a limited number of cases and you should still plan to arrange your finances as though you will be required to pay the full \$900. Good luck.

CENTCOM News

ICDC Building Attacked as Gen. Abizaid Visits

FALLUJAH, Iraq — A local headquarters of the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps was attacked at approximately 10:30 a.m. Feb. 12 while the Commander U.S. Central Command, Gen. John Abizaid was visiting with Iraqi officials there.

The attackers fired rocket propelled grenades that impacted near the building. Coalition and ICDC security forces returned fire and the attackers fled. No coalition or ICDC forces were injured in the attack. Maj. Gen. Charles Swannack, Commander of the 82nd Airborne Division, accompanied Gen. Abizaid for the visit.

Following the attack and at the conclusion of his meeting, Gen. Abizaid talked with security forces and then returned to a U.S. military base nearby.

It is unknown if the attackers knew Gen. Abizaid was in the building.

Task Force Olympia recovers weapons

MOSUL, Iraq — Soldiers from 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, under the operational control of Task Force Olympia, recovered weapons and explosive devices in northern Iraq Feb. 11.

Soldiers from 1st Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment conducted a patrol near Tall Afar and discovered one 82 mm mortar.

Members of the Coalition for Iraqi Unity, a concerned group of citizens in northwestern Iraq, came to the 1st Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment and turned in two rocket-propelled grenade rockets, five RPG sights, nine hand grenades, 144 rounds of 7.62 mm ammunition, two binoculars and 3,008 rounds of other calibers.

One Soldier killed, two wounded

BAGHDAD, Iraq — An improvised-explosive-device and small-arms-fire attack killed one 16th Military Police Brigade Soldier and wounded two others at approximately 10:40 p.m. Feb. 12.

The wounded soldiers were evacuated to the 31st Combat Support Hospital for treatment.

The names of the Soldiers are being withheld pending next-of-kin notification.

The incident is under investigation.

One Soldier killed, nine wounded

KABUL, Afghanistan — One Soldier was killed and nine wounded by a mine at approximately 4:30 p.m. Feb. 13 near Ghazni.

Four of the Soldiers were treated on the scene and the others were medically evacuated by helicopter to the 452nd Combat Support Hospital at Bagram Air Base.

The names of the Soldiers are being withheld pending notification of next-of-kin.

The incident is under investigation.

Bus Accident Injures 22 Soldiers

ALI AL SALEM AIR BASE, KUWAIT — Twenty-five members of the U.S. Military were injured Sunday, around 2:30 p.m. local, when the bus they were riding overturned while traveling to Ali Al Salem Air Base.

The cause of the accident is unknown at this time and is being investigated.